GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2468
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
NMEICT
Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) Project in the country;

(b) if so, the objectives of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government has set any target under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the present status of the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) The objectives of the National Mission on Education through ICT inter alia include (a) the development of knowledge modules having the right content to take care of the aspira- tions and to address to the personalized needs of the learners; (b) research in the field of pedagogy for development of efficient learning modules for disparate groups of learners; (c) standardization and quality assurance of contents to make them world class; (d) building connec- tivity and knowledge network among and within institutions of higher learning in the country with a view of achieving critical mass of resea- rchers in any given field; (e) availability of e-knowledge contents, free of cost to Indians; (f) spreading digital literacy for teacher empo- werment (g) experimentation and field trial in the area of performance optimization of low cost access/devices for use of ICT in education; (h) providing support for the creation of virtual technological universities; (i) identification and nurturing of talent; (j) certification of competencies of the human resources acquired either through formal or non-formal means and the evolution of a legal framework for it; and (k) developing and maintaining the database with the profiles of our human resources.

The Mission also endeavours to blend soft skills with knowledge modules and inculcate a discipline of holistic thinking in the learners so as to make them job creators rather than job seekers.

(c) Yes Madam. The Government has set targets under the scheme.

(d) The NMEICT Mission is in the process of creating high quality e-content for the target groups covering all disciplines at higher education level. NPTEL is a joint initiative of IITs and IISc funded by this Mission and provides e-learning through online Web and Video based courses in engineering, science and humanities streams. The Mission of NPTEL is to enhance the quality of engineering education in the country by providing free online courseware. Over 810 courses are complete and made available in NPTEL website. More than 1000 courses in various disciplines in engineering and science are getting generated in phase-II of NPTEL. NPTEL provides E-learning through online Web and Video courses in Engineering, Science and humanities streams. For UG courses, Consortium of Educational Communication (CEC) has been tasked for e-content generation. E- content for History, Botany, English Literature, Envi- ronmental Science, Anthropology, Mathematics, Hindi Language and Vocational Studies (Photography) has been created. E-content creation for another 21 subjects is likely to be completed soon. The CEC is developing e- content in 87 under graduate subjects in collaboration with its 17 media centers. For 77 PG subjects, e- content generation activity has been assigned to Uni- versity Grants Commission (UGC). Under the NMEICT scheme, 1Gbps optical connectivity to 403 universities/ university level institutions and 15-20 broadband connections of 512 Kbps speed each to more than 21310 colleges including polytechnics in the country have also been provided. A LAN of upto 400 nodes has also been provided in 50 universities/ university level institutions in the country. Under the Mission the "Talk to a Teacher" program has also been launched for synchronous training of over 10,000 participants. 1500 Spoken Tutorials are available on line. The "National Library and information Services infras- tructure for Scholarly Content (NLIST)", funded by NMEICT, provides for access to scholarly content to educational institutions. The programme provides access to more than 6000 e-journals and 97,000 e-books to degree colleges.